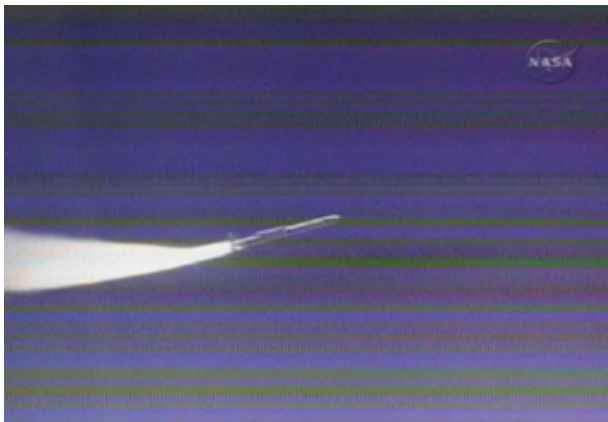




# NASA Weekly Update

Week of April 23 - 30, 2007

**April 25: NASA's AIM Mission Soars to the Edge of Space:** NASA's Aeronomy of Ice in the Mesosphere (AIM) spacecraft, the first mission dedicated to the exploration of mysterious ice clouds that dot the edge



*The Pegasus rocket ignites to launch the AIM spacecraft into orbit.*

of space in Earth's polar regions, successfully launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., at 1:26 p.m. PDT on Wednesday, April 25. The mission will study clouds that are noctilucent, meaning they can be seen from the ground only at night, when they are illuminated by sunlight no longer visible from the Earth's surface. For more information about NASA and the AIM mission, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/aim>.

**April 25: Queen Elizabeth II to Visit NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center:** Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., on Tuesday, May 8. Parts of the visit will be carried live on NASA TV or included in NASA video file feeds that day.

**April 26: NASA to Rotate Station Astronauts on Next Shuttle Mission:** After several months working aboard the International Space Station, NASA

astronaut Suni Williams will come back to Earth aboard the space shuttle Atlantis, targeted for launch June 8. That shuttle mission, STS-117, will carry her successor, astronaut Clay Anderson, to the station to begin his duty as an Expedition 15 flight engineer. The exchange of Anderson and Williams was originally planned for the STS-118 mission, now targeted for launch in August. However, that flight, first set to fly in June, had to be postponed after an unexpected hail storm damaged Atlantis' external fuel tank and delayed STS-117. For additional biographical information about Williams and Anderson and more information on the space station, visit:

<http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/index.html> and <http://www.nasa.gov/station>.

**May 1: NASA Science Update to Discuss New Data from Jupiter Flyby:** A NASA Science Update at 1 p.m. EDT Tuesday, May 1, will discuss new views of the Jupiter system. The Pluto-bound New Horizons spacecraft is returning these images as it flies past the solar system's largest planet during the initial stages of a planned six-month encounter. The update will take place in the NASA Headquarters auditorium at 300 E St., S.W., Washington. The update will air live on NASA Television and be streamed at [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov). New Horizons is using Jupiter's gravity to boost its speed toward the outer solar system while training its cameras and sensors on the giant planet and its moons. For more information about NASA TV, streaming video, downlink and schedule information, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/ntv>.

**May 5: Jet Propulsion Laboratory Welcomes 'Sally Ride Science' STS-118 Educator Institute:** Sally Ride Science, in partnership with Northrop Grumman and NASA, is offering an Educator Institute on May 5, 2007, at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. This one-day professional development program for upper elementary and middle school science teachers will focus on the upcoming flight of Barbara Morgan, the first Educator Astronaut. The institute will include presentations about the STS-118 mission,

hands-on workshops and a keynote address by a NASA astronaut. For more information about the Educator Institute and to register online, visit: <http://www.sallyrideeducators.com/>.

**April 27: NASA Science Statement on Stephen Hawking's Zero Gravity Flight:** The following is a statement from Alan Stern, NASA associate administrator for the Science Mission Directorate at Headquarters in Washington, regarding renowned physicist Stephen Hawking's flight aboard Zero Gravity Corporation's Boeing 727.

"Stephen Hawking's flight to experience zero gravity is exciting. I can say from flying hundreds of parabolas aboard NASA KC-135s myself that the experience is eye-opening, exhilarating and personally fulfilling. My own experiences primarily were participating in research in space motion sickness and later, low-gravity accretion."

**April 27: NASA's Centennial Challenge for Improved Astronaut Gloves Set:** On Wednesday and Thursday, May 2-3, teams from around the nation will compete for a total of \$250,000 from NASA for an improved astronaut glove design. For more information about the Innovative Partnerships Program and Centennial Challenges, visit: <http://www.ipp.nasa.gov/cc>.

**April 24: NASA Awards Contract for Networkable Office Machines:** On Tuesday, NASA announced the selection of Xerox Corporation of Washington to provide multifunctional device support, supplies and maintenance to all NASA centers and associated facilities. The maximum potential value of the contract is \$35 million.

Launch Pad: 39A  
Crew: Sturckow, Archambault, Reilly, Swanson, Forrester, Olivas and Anderson

Mission: STS-118 - 22nd International Space Station Flight (13A.1) - S5 Truss Segment  
Vehicle: Endeavour (OV-105)  
Location: Orbiter Processing Facility Bay 2  
Launch Date: Targeted for Aug. 9, 2007  
Launch Pad: 39A  
Crew: Kelly, Hobaugh, Williams, Morgan, Mastracchio, and Caldwell



The Expedition 15 crew aboard the International Space Station completed its first week of station orientation as the crew worked with experiments and hardware maintenance. Commander Fyodor Yurchikhin and flight engineers Oleg Kotov and Suni Williams began the week with a couple light duty days after the busy handover operations with the former crew. Expedition 14 Commander Michael Lopez-Alegria and Russian crewmate Mikhail Tyurin, accompanied by spaceflight participant Charles Simonyi, returned to Earth on Saturday, April 21, and are at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City, Russia, for several weeks of post-mission debriefing and rehabilitation. For more about the crew's activities and station sighting opportunities, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/station>.



## Weekly Status Reports



Mission: STS-117 - 21st International Space Station Flight (13A) - S3/S4 Truss Segment Solar Arrays  
Vehicle: Atlantis (OV-104)  
Location: Vehicle Assembly Building  
Launch Date: Targeted for June 8, 2007

- **May 10-13:** Public Service Recognition Week featuring a full-scale model of the James Webb Space Telescope on the National Mall.
- **June 8:** Launch of Space Shuttle Atlantis from Kennedy Space Center for mission STS-117.
- **June 20:** NASA Day on the Hill in the Rayburn Foyer.
- **June 30:** Dawn launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on a Delta II rocket.
- **Aug 9:** Launch of Space Shuttle Endeavor from Kennedy Space Center for mission STS-118.

**Please send A Look at NASA Newsletter to me.**

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